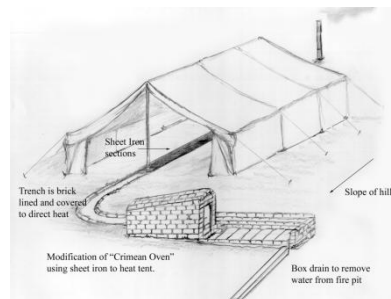
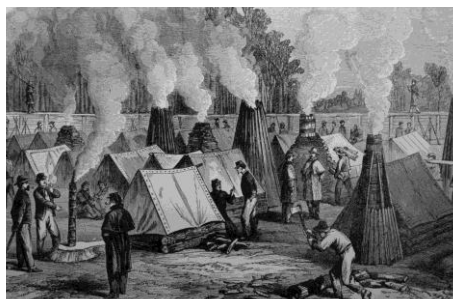


CIVIL WAR SOLDIER LIFE



CIVIL WAR SOLDIER LIFE



From left: Union camp scene with chimney architecture (Leslie, *Famous Leaders and Battles in the Civil War*, 1896); archaeological remnants of Crimean oven at Quaker Ridge site; mechanics of tent oven (Wally Owen)

Artifact Group #1 Minié Balls

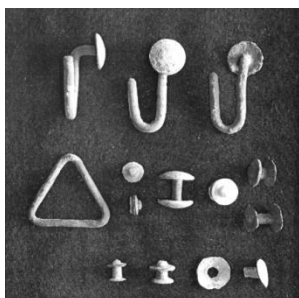
Lead

Group #2 Knapsack Hardware

Metal

Civil War, 1861–1865

Excavated: Quaker Ridge, 3517–
3543 Duke Street



Excavations at the site of a Civil War Union encampment and hospital in Alexandria's West End revealed a well-preserved brick Crimean oven (pictured at top), which likely would have heated the camp hospital tents. This oven, and a second one nearby, are the only archaeological examples of Crimean ovens to be discovered in the United States.

Minié balls were found at the site. The 38th New York infantry regiment likely occupied the militia camp in the fall of 1861. In 1849, French military officer Claude Minié invented the conical-shaped projectiles that bear his name. The bullets revolutionized warfare, increasing a rifle's accuracy, range, and velocity.

This knapsack hardware (pictured at left) belonged to a standard-issue canvas pack used between 1853 and 1872. It would have included buckles, hooks, studs, and triangular fittings. Enlisted men found the knapsacks of limited use, often discarding them, preferring to store items in blanket rolls.

Artifact #3 Horn Insignia for Hat

Brass

Artifact #4 U.S. Plate for Cartridge Box

Brass

Excavated: Smucker Property, 108
N. Quaker Lane

Artifact #5 Eagle Plate for Cartridge Box Strap

Brass

Excavated: 1400 Janney's Lane
All Civil War, 1861–1865

This "looped" horn insignia (pictured below) was the symbol for Civil War Union Army infantry hats issued with the full dress uniform. Soldiers often removed the horns from their dress hats and put them on their forager hats, known as kepis.



This U.S. plate (pictured above), which matches one dug at Fort Ward Historical Park in 2010–2011, once was attached to a leather ammunition box cover worn at a soldier's waist. The eagle plate attached to the box's strap, which was slung over the shoulder and across the chest. Soldiers often removed these accoutrements in battle, as the shiny brass plates provided targets for enemy sharpshooters.